



**NIEHS**

National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences

# Learning from Disasters: Katrina Response Training

Birmingham, AL  
March 8, 2006



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# ESAP Group

- Idea of breakout group is to look at WETP program's activation plan.
  - Want feedback on the system that has evolved regarding putting something into the field. How it works, what it is, when does it get activated?
    - Difference b/w NIEHS training before an event, vs. waiting till an event happens
      - » Are there certain types of training that should be addressed with agencies before hand?

# ESAP Deployment

- Can NIEHS be setting up with JFO immediately after event, so training can be up and running ASAP, instead of waiting until being “activated”?
  - Training is not needed in response phase – Emergency Responders are already trained
  - Support personnel are the ones who need the training.
  - Many people in EPA don’t realize WETP is funded out of Superfund and are available – need to get in contact with individual regions so that they know that WETP is available.
- Need to also more accurately describe/market what WETP does. WETP are facilitators of information.

# Training Issues

- Private entities (w/ large capital) went in and did their own training and response (don't know if they did it properly, but it was done quickly)
- OSHA jurisdiction issues – state and local government employees don't come under federal OSHA standards. State/Local contractors do come under OSHA jurisdiction.
- Corp. and FEMA need to incorporate HASP into future responses.

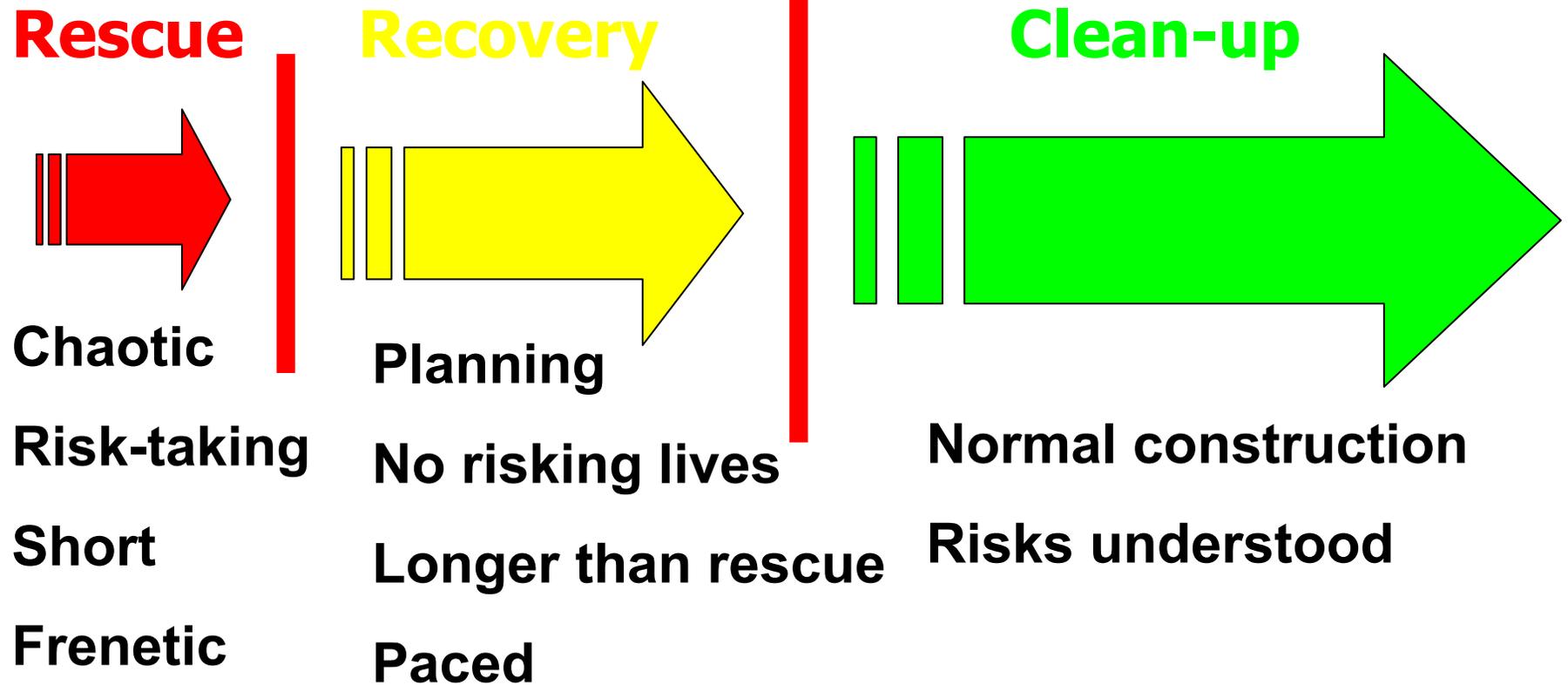
# Katrina Training Concerns

- Addressing safety and health hazards in the NIEHS Katrina Site Orientation.
- Adapting and Streamlining NIEHS training programs to train non-federally funded workers for the cleanup and re-building in the Gulf Coast.
- Revisiting the OSHA Disaster Site Worker Course.
- Fleshing out a WETP training deployment plan for the Gulf.

- State knows who they are sending on behalf of Emergency Management Assistance Compact request. EMAC is a form to track who is being sent, and requests can require training. A way to control who is going down.

# Extending rescue extends risk for response workers

## Phases of Response: Impact on Safety



# Preparedness Training



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# NIEHS Katrina Training Team in Baton Rouge, LA Feb. 2006

To be prepared against surprise is to be trained;



To be prepared for surprise is to be educated.

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